RAWR
Why won't you release the next chapter?!
Can I help you?
What can I do to help?
Fan Girl
It's not like YOU helped out any...
We don't have enough translators or editors
Cross-eyed attempt
Visit our website for details
Find us some translators and editors and you'll have your next chapter
http://www.aerandria.net

crookclock
crookclock
crookclock
crookclock
ネスミチサト

k

# ネスミチサト

Natsumi Nesu

うれしはずかし、初単行本です。
未熟なガちも頑張りました。
少しでも楽しんでいただければ幸いです！

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定価：本体562円＋税
マッグガーデン

若くして、時計職人として名高いヒウレット。
時計を深く愛し、時計の製作を中心に生きるヒウレットを、
執事のジルは心配するが、効果はなし。
しかしある日、そんな彼の日常を変える出会いが…！

表題作ほか、少女の淡く切ない想いを描いた
「ねこのかんざし」を収録。

crookclock
Presented by Chisato Nesumi

CHAPTER 1

CHAPTER 2

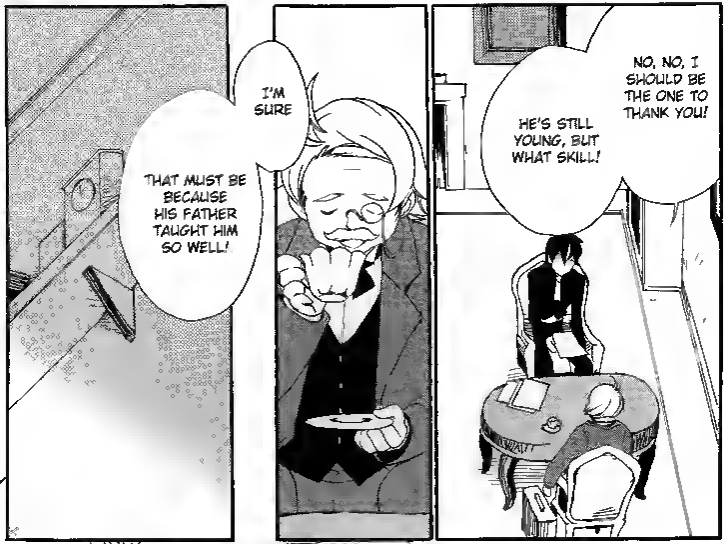
FINAL CHAPTER

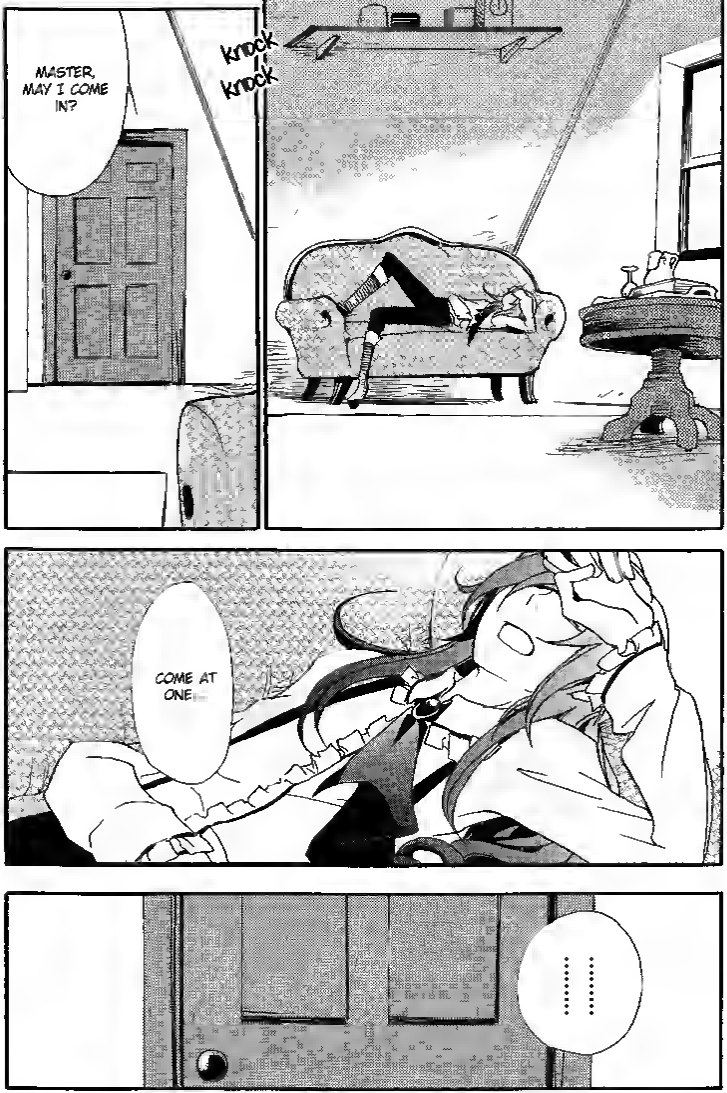
'S HAIRPIN

IT'S DONE
FINALLY.
Now only to set the time right..
HM...? IT'S ALREADY THIS LATE?
THAT'S BAD..
I'LL REST A LITTLE
AND TRY OUT THE SOUND OF THIS ONE....

Chapter 1

HERE IS THE ITEM YOU ORDERED, SIR
WHEN DO YOU THINK THE NEXT ONE MIGHT BE READY?
BY THE END OF THE MONTH... OR SO I HOPE. BUT IT ALL DEPENDS ON MASTER.
HE HAS MANY CLIENTS WAITING, RIGHT?
BUT STILL, I HOPE THE NEXT WILL BE READY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
IS THAT SO...?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!


NO, NO, I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO THANK YOU!
HE'S STILL YOUNG, BUT WHAT SKILL!
I'M SURE
THAT MUST BE BECAUSE HIS FATHER TAUGHT HIM SO WELL!


MASTER, MAY I COME IN?
knock knock
COME AT ONE!!
……

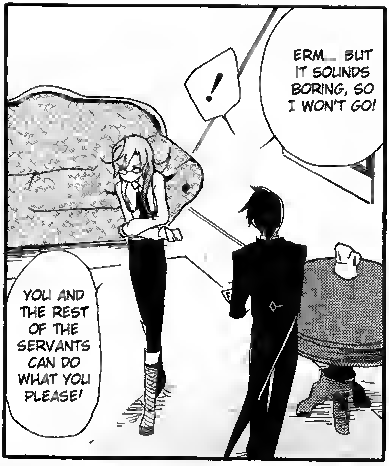
SFX: WOBBLE
I TOLD YOU TO COME BACK AT ONE O'CLOCK!
BUT IT'S ALL READY ONE O'CLOCK, MASTER~~
JILL! DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID?!
E-EXCUSE ME...
Creak
WHAT?
THEN MY WATCH WAS WRONG?
IS THAT... THE ONE YOU MADE LAST NIGHT?
.....
ring ring

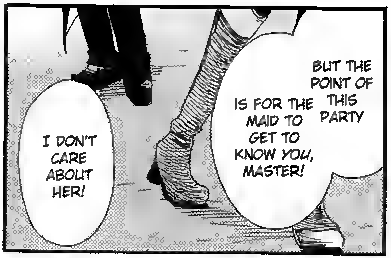
THE WATCH TRADESMAN WAS JUST HERE.
GOOD WORK, MASTER!
DID HE SAY ANYTHING?
.....
YES... I WANTED TO MAKE IT RING AT A CERTAIN TIME,
BUT IT SEEMS HARDER THAN I THOUGHT...
AND THIS IS A LIST OF THE PEOPLE WHO HOPE YOU WILL MAKE WATCHES FOR THEM.
HE PRAISED YOUR WATCHES, MASTER
HE WAS AMAZED AT YOUR SKILL...

AREN'T THERE A LOT MORE THAN BEFORE...?
THAT'S BECAUSE YOUR WORKS ARE SO POPULAR, MASTER!
flop
OH, MAN...
AND CARRYING SUCH A WATCH IS THE LATEST FASHION TREND
I THINK IT'S BECOMING A SIGN OF HIGH STATUS!
stand
FASH-ION...?
THESE PEOPLE ARE SO DELUDED TO LET FASH-ION DICTATE THEM!
THEY ARE TURNING MY WORK INTO SOME PLAY-THING!
MY WATCHES AREN'T JUST SOME DECORATION!

I WANT TO GIVE THEM ONLY TO PEOPLE
WHO LOVE WATCHES AND WILL TREASURE THEM!
AHH..., BUT!
I'M SURE THAT MANY PEOPLE DISCOVERED HOW WONDERFUL WATCHES ARE AFTER THEY SAW YOURS!
Sigh
I WONDER ABOUT THAT ..
I'M SURE, I'M SURE!
BY THE WAY, MASTER, DID YOU EAT YOUR LUNCH?
I DON'T WANT ANY TODAY.
TAKE IT AWAY.
WHA?!

SHOCK
NO WAY, MASTER!
I KNOW YOU'RE BUSY, BUT YOU CAN'T MISS EATING AND SLEEPING!
YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WEAK, SO PLEASE DON'T DO THIS TO YOURSELF!
SHUT UP, JILL!
AND DON'T MAKE ME REPEAT MYSELF! TAKE THAT AWAY!
SOB SOB SOB
YES, SIR, ALLOW ME TO TAKE IT AWAY..
SOB! MASTER, YOU'RE SO COLD...
Colder than your lunch..
SHUT UP AND GET LOST!
snuffle snuffle
EHM MASTER?
CAN YOU GO OUT IN YOUR CURRENT CONDITION?


ERM... BUT IT SOUNDS BORING, SO I WON'T GO!
!
YOU AND THE REST OF THE SERVANTS CAN DO WHAT YOU PLEASE!


BUT THE POINT OF THIS PARTY IS FOR THE MAID TO GET TO KNOW YOU, MASTER!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT HER!

flop
I HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO! LEAVE ME
.....

?
AND WHY SHOULD I GO OUT?
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN? THE NEW MAID IS COMING TODAY
AND YOU AGREED THAT WE SHOULD HAVE A TEA PARTY OUTSIDE!
I DID ..?

THEN WE WON'T HOLD THE TEA PARTY OUTSIDE
WE'LL BRING THE TABLE IN AND PUT IT RIGHT BEFORE YOUR ROOM, MASTER!
IS THAT SO... I UNDERSTAND
WE, THE SERVANTS, CAN DO WHAT WE PLEASE, RIGHT?
YES, DO JUST THAT!
IT'S ANOTHER STORY, MASTER.
WHY NOT? YOU TOLD ME TO DO WHATEVER WE PLEASE! OF COURSE, IF YOU AGREE TO COME,
.....
HEY, YOU!
DON'T YOU DARE!

So in the end...
he managed to black-mail me into it...
WONDERFUL WEATHER TODAY, ISN'T IT?
WON-DERFUL, MY FOOT!
IT'S HOT AND BRIGHT! IT MAKES ME SICK!
ONE "HELLO!" AND I'M GOING BACK INSIDE!
COME, COME, MASTER, DON'T BE LIKE THAT!
THE NEW MAID IS VERY CUTE~
SHUT UP! I DON'T CARE!

MASTER! YOU REALLY CAME!
I'M SO GLAD...
WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU LATELY, SO WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT YOU, MASTER!
EH...
WELL, TODAY'S PARTY IS VERY IMPORTANT,
SO MASTER WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!
Sweet talker...
NOW PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT, MASTER!
EVERYONE TAKE YOUR SEATS, TOO!
HM...? WHAT'S THAT?
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A... MEAL.

GENERALLY, THESE ARE... SCONES...
WELL, THAT IS...
N-NICE TO MEET YOU, MASTER! MY NAME IS MULARA!
EHM...
THEY ARE DELICIOUS, SO PLEASE DIG IN... I MEAN, TASTE SOME...!
AH? YEAH...
AND I MADE THESE, BUT THE PASTRY WOULDN'T RISE UP AT ALL,
SO I KNOW THEY DON'T LOOK GOOD, BUT...
THIS IS THE NEW MAID, MASTER

I AM THE BUTLER, JILL
AND THIS MAID IS MISS VANILLA
NOW THAT WE'RE ALL HERE, WON'T YOU INTRODUCE US TO MULARA?
YES, OF COURSE
HEY, JILL?
These things are supposed to be scones..?
AND THESE TWO ARE MISS ALISA AND MISS ELDA
MR. GREY AND HIS WIFE RICOTT.. BUT YOU ALREADY KNOW THEM.
I WAS SIMPLY ENCHANTED!
WHEN I HEARD THAT UNCLE WORKS FOR THE KRIMM FAMILY,
THAT'S RIGHT!
MISS MULARA IS THE NIECE OF OUR GARDENER, MR. GREY.
?

MY YOUNGER BROTHER LOVES WATCHES
AND HIS DAUGHTER, TOO, WAS REALLY LUCKY TO COME TO WORK HERE
THEN YOU KNEW ABOUT THE KRIMM WATCHES FOR A LONG TIME, MULARA?
YES! FATHER COLLECTED THEM
AND
MASTER, YOU ARE THE SEVENTH HEAD OF THE KRIMM FAMILY, AREN'T YOU?
YES
I...
I LOVE THE WATCHES YOU MAKE, MASTER!

EH?
FATHER GAVE ME ONE OF YOUR CLOCKS WHEN I WAS A CHILD
AND I'VE NEVER PARTED FROM IT...
EVEN NOW, IT'S MY TREASURE!
!!
EH.. REALLY...
YES!
.....
EH... SUCH A WONDERFUL STORY!
WHAT KIND OF CLOCK IS IT?
YES! I WANT TO SEE IT, TOO!
.....
silence

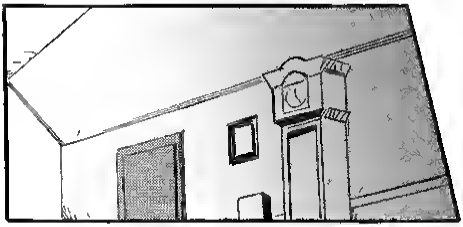
DOVE CLOCK?
EHM... I THINK IT'S CALLED A DOVE CLOCK.
IT'S RATHER OLD...
DON'T YOU REMEMBER IT?
IT'S ABOUT THIS BIG... AND IT SINGS ONCE EVERY HOUR
THAT'S CALLED A ROOSTER CLOCK!
EH?
NO, I'M SURE IT WASN'T ROOSTER, BUT DOVE...
SLAM
NO!

IT RINGS TO WAKE UP ITS OWNER, RIGHT?
AREN'T YOU JUST MISTAKING THINGS?
EHM...
NO, THE ROOSTER CLOCK IS A RATHER NEW INVENTION. IT MUST BE SOMETHING ELSE...
...!
Ah...!

?!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
WAVER
dizzy
..AH ...!
I'M...
A LITTLE... DIZZY
MASTER?!
WHAT HAPPENED?! MASTER, HOW DO YOU FEEL?!

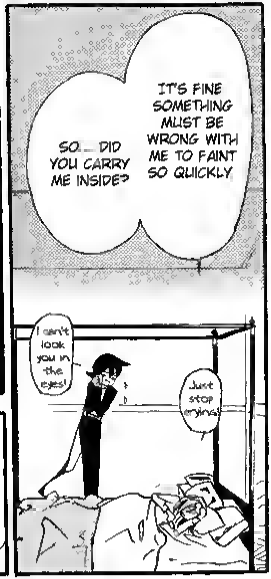
MASTER! HOLD ON!
ENOUGH, EVERY-ONE!
SOMEONE, PREPARE HIM A CHANGE OF CLOTHES AND BRING WATER!
AND CALM DOWN! I'LL TAKE MASTER TO HIS ROOM!
THIS IS TERRIBLE!
DID HE STAY IN THE SUNSHINE FOR TOO LONG?!
DID HE?!
OH, NO. THIS IS BAD!
MR GREY, HELP ME CARRY HIM!
OF COURSE!
DO WE HAVE ANYTHING TO USE AS A STRETCHER?
NO, WE CAN USE THE CHAIR AT BEST...
.....

HE'LL BE FINE ONCE HE'S INSIDE, RIGHT?
?!
SHOCK
EH? EHM...
YES, BUT.
WHA...
.....
STAMPede
ROGER THAT!
lift
I'LL TAKE HIM!
pull
?
come... on!



I'M SO SORRY I MADE YOU ATTEND THE TEA PARTY, MASTER!

NO, I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING.
MISS MULARA BROUGHT YOU IN ALONE.


IT'S FINE SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG WITH ME TO FAINT SO QUICKLY.
SO... DID YOU CARRY ME INSIDE?
I can't look you in the eyes!
Just stop arguing!

EH... WHAT THE?!
JUMP
Sob Sob
I'M SO GLAD SHE WAS USED TO MANUAL LABOR...

MUST BE BECAUSE SHE'S YOUR FAN, MASTER.
I'M SURE THAT WAS THE POWER OF
LOVE FOR...
flop
YOU... YOU'RE JOKING!
SHE LOOKED SO SMALL, HOW CAN SHE BE SO STRONG?!
MASTER, YOU MUST REST, REST!
THUD
THEN CUT OUT THE CRAP!
MASTER, DON'T GET UP SO ABRUPTLY OR...
dizzy
ouch
dizzy
...
OR YOU'LL FAINT AGAIN... THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU TO REST.

YOU MEAN AT THE PARTY?
YES I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE HAS ONE OF MY CLOCKS ..
AND THAT SHE TREASURES IT SO MUCH
flop
I WANTED
TO CHAT SOME MORE..
IS IT REALLY POSSIBLE?
.....

MASTER, YOU LOOK UNUSUALLY HAPPY
!?
AND I'M HAPPY THAT YOU FINALLY TOOK INTEREST IN GIRLS,
NOT WATCHES!
NO, THAT'S NOT...
I'M GLAD YOU SEEM HEALTHY NOW
FORGET ABOUT WATCHES FOR TODAY
AND JUST REST, PLEASE.
JUMP
GRIN
YOU THINK SO...?
DON'T MISUNDERSTAND!
I'M JUST GRATEFUL A CRAFTSMAN!
AGRH, HURRY UP AND DISAPPEAR!

Maybe I should listen to Jill
and rest for today...
close
But now I'm hungry...
.....
Speaking of which, those scones looked edible..

I wonder how they tasted...
!?
Sound of a broom?
MAYBE...
creak
!

YES...
AH... MASTER!
ARE YOU FEELING BETTER NOW?
EH, NO, IT'S FINE!...
I'M VERY SORRY!
MR. JILL WAS READY TO HELP YOU, BUT I STEPPED IN AND...
She really carried me. ?!
I'M SO GLAD!
EHM...
I'M VERY SORRY FOR BEFORE!
I'M GLAD WE GOT TO CHAT,
EVEN IF ONLY FOR A WHILE

Just HAD to wave back
WE CAN CHAT AGAIN WHEN YOU FEEL BETTER, RIGHT, MASTER?
ME TOO! I'M VERY HAPPY!
WAH...
wave
wave
AH!
AND THERE'S ONE MORE THING...
EHM... NO, ACTUALLY...
MAYBE I SHOULD STOP CALLING YOU THAT?
WHEN SOMEONE SAYS "MASTER" IN THIS HOUSE, IT'S AS IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE FIRST MASTER.
?

WELL, I DON'T LIKE TO BE CALLED THAT, BUT NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I SAY IT, NOBODY LISTENS
THEN MAY I CALL YOU BY YOUR NAME INSTEAD?
YES...
ALL RIGHT THEN, MASTER HEWLETT!
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING FOR YOU!
AH...
T-THANK YOU!

# Chapter 2

THE MAIL IS HERE!
EXCUSE ME!
.....
SIGH..
IS ANYBODY THERE? THE MAIL IS HERE!

THANKS FOR THE HARD WORK!
OH! THAT WAS QUICK!
YES!
I'M COMING!
.....

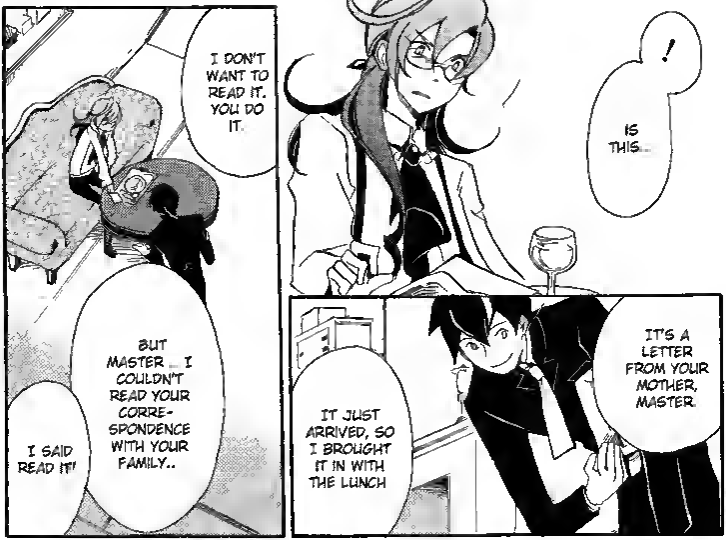
GOOD MORNING, MASTER HEWLETT!
blush
!!
I'M GETTING EXCITED OVER NOTHING...
BUT NAMES ARE VERY IMPOR-TANT...
SHE...
SHE SAID MY NAME AGAIN...
.....

N-NOT GOOD! NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO THINK OF DISTRACTING THINGS!
I HAVE TO DESIGN THE NEW ITEMS!
.....!
dreamy
I'm out of ideas lately..
scribble
I'm resting too much!
What in the world is wrong with me...
Work is piling up!
I pay more attention to the humming voice outside than to the sound of the watches!
And even when I'm working,

"AHH, MY LITTLE BIRD!"
snatch
I KNOCKED FIRST, BUT YOU DIDN'T ANSWER...
WHEN DID YOU SNEAK IN?!
WAH!
"I CAN'T CALL OUT TO YOU, BUT ONLY STARE AT YOUR BEAUTY FROM AFAR."
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, MASTER, WAS THAT A L-L-LO-
LOVE LETTER?
NO!

AH, I'M SO INDESCRIBABLY HAPPY! MY HEART IS SIMPLY OVER-FLOWING WITH JOY!
ABSOLUTELY NOT! THOSE ARE JUST LINES OF A NOVEL I READ ONCE...!
YOU ARE WRITING A REAL LOVE LETTER FOR YOUR TRUE LOVE, THE NEW MAI...
SFX GRAZE
AH, THAT NOVEL!
YES, YES, I HAVEN'T READ IT IN A WHILE! YOUR LUNCH, MASTER!
I DON'T WANT IT! GO AWAY!
.....
BANG
THUD

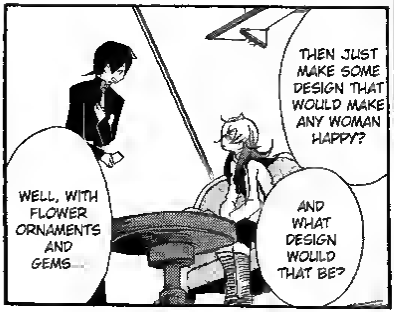
IF YOU SKIP MEALS, YOU WON'T HAVE STRENGTH EVEN TO WIND UP YOUR WATCHES!
SHUT UP! I DON'T WANT LUNCH TODAY!
IS THAT SO... I SEE.
NOT THAT AGAIN!
pull
!!
AHH... MASTER WANTS SO MUCH TO FAINT AGAIN~~
SO THAT MISS MULARA WOULD TAKE HIM IN HER ARMS AGAIN


I DON'T WANT TO READ IT. YOU DO IT.
BUT MASTER... I COULDN'T READ YOUR CORRE-SPONDENCE WITH YOUR FAMILY..
I SAID READ IT!
!
IS THIS...
IT JUST ARRIVED, SO I BROUGHT IT IN WITH THE LUNCH
IT'S A LETTER FROM YOUR MOTHER, MASTER.

"MY DEAREST HEWLETT..."
How are you?
THEN I SUPPOSE I'LL HAVE TO READ IT. EXCUSE ME.

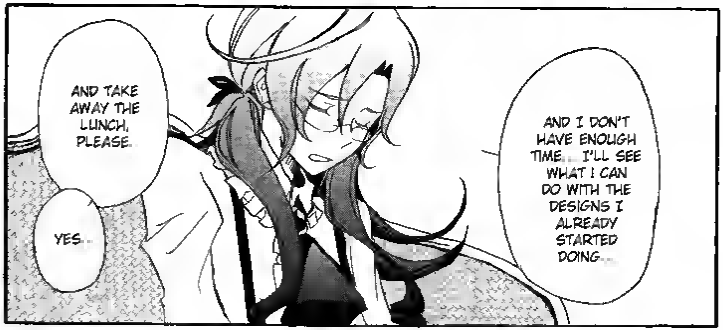
It has been several autumns since you left us
Your father is worried about you because you decided to make watches all alone, without joining any workshop
At least come to visit us from time to time so that we wouldn't worry about you so much
.....
By the way, I was invited to a ball at one of the clients' homes
It will be held at the beginning of next month, so I thought that if you have any new watches, you could send one to me? I think that my appearance at the ball with it could be excellent advertising
"PLEASE, THINK ABOUT IT
YOUR MOTHER WHO LOVES YOU VERY MUCH, VIOLET."
MASTER...
...DREAM ON

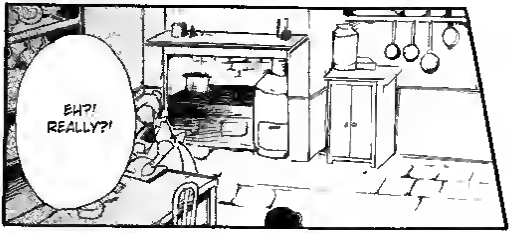
.....
BE-
SIDES,
IF I SENT A WATCH TO THAT HOUSE, IT MIGHT CATCH THE EYE OF A CERTAIN PERSON...
I KNOW MY MOTHER
SHE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ADVERTISING, SHE JUST WANTS TO SHOW OFF!
MASTER!
SLAM
sulk
SHE WILL FEEL SO LONELY THAT SOONER OR LATER, SHE'LL COME HERE!
YOU HAVE A POINT...
YOU HAVEN'T WRITTEN EVEN ONE ANSWER TO YOUR MOTHER'S LETTERS ALL THESE YEARS
IF YOU KEEP DOING THAT


THEN JUST MAKE SOME DESIGN THAT WOULD MAKE ANY WOMAN HAPPY?
AND WHAT DESIGN WOULD THAT BE?
WELL, WITH FLOWER ORNAMENTS AND GEMS...

YES, I'D RATHER MAKE ONE WATCH FOR HER INSTEAD OF HAVING HER INVITE HERSELF HERE!
ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE LIKES...

Oops. Don't you like the idea?
Sigh


AND I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME... I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO WITH THE DESIGNS I ALREADY STARTED DOING...
AND TAKE AWAY THE LUNCH, PLEASE.
YES...


EH?! REALLY?!

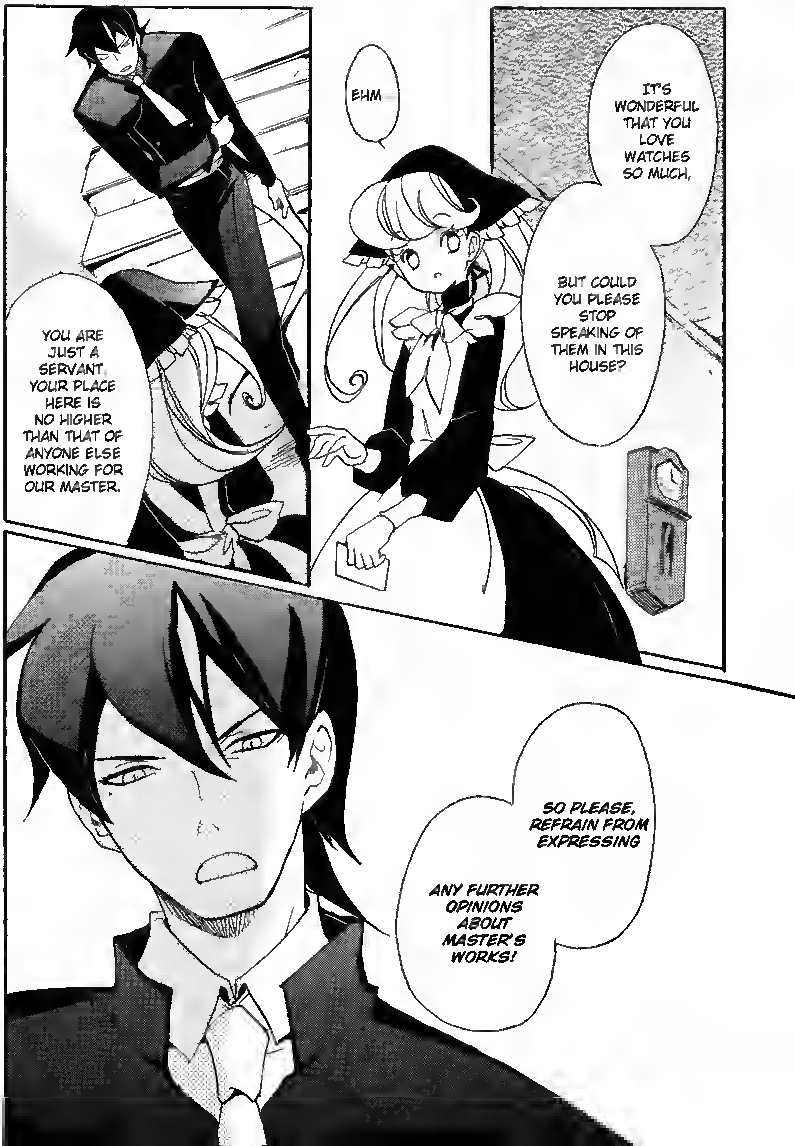
AH, MR. JILL! DID YOU HEAR ABOUT MULARA?
WHAT ABOUT HER?
WHEN SHE CLEANS THE YARD, SHE ALWAYS TURNS TO MASTER'S WINDOW AND GREETS HIM!
YES! I WAS SURPRISED, TOO, BUT THAT'S WHAT YOU HAVE TO EXPECT OF A FAN!
YES, ACTUALLY, SHE LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS HEAD OVER HEELS EVER SINCE SHE CAME!
Don't you two have better things to do?
ISN'T THIS WONDERFUL?!
AND ON TOP OF THAT, SHE CALLS HIM BY HIS FIRST NAME!
OH, WELL
WHAT'S THE HARM?
AND THAT "LITTLE BIRD"...
?
OH, YEAH...

ALL WE CAN DO IS CHEER FOR THEM
AH... THANK YOU.
AH, MISS MULARA, WONDERFUL JOB CLEANING THE YARD!
Slam
!
.....
THAT LETTER IS...?
BHM... THE DELIVERYMAN GAVE IT TO ME THIS MORNING..
MR. JILL, COULD YOU PLEASE READ IT TO ME?

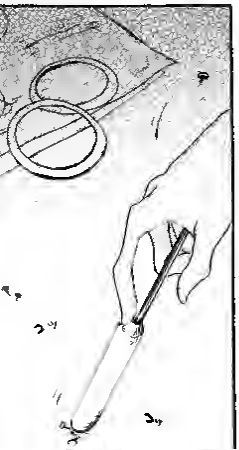
Thank you that you smile so brightly every time you come to meet me.
Miss Mulara, I love you!
?
I... I CAN'T READ.
YES, PLEASE!
AH IS THAT SO? WELL, IF YOU ALLOW ME, I WILL READ IT.
This..
This is a love letter...!
I'M SO HAPPY!
LET'S START AS FRIENDS! ♡
AW, THAT MAN LOVES ME!
If Mulara-san knew what was written in here...
!?
Shock

SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
I must prevent this!
MR. JILL...?
WHAT?
AH, YES, I'M SORRY, BUT THIS LETTER WASN'T ADDRESSED TO YOU.
IT'S FAN MAIL FOR MASTER!
BUT HE NEVER READS SUCH LETTERS, SO...
SOMEONE PROBABLY ORDERED THE DELIVERYMAN TO HAND IT DIRECTLY...
IS THAT SO...
I THINK IT WILL BE BETTER NOT TO SHOW IT TO ANYONE.
dong
WELL, ENOUGH TALK, LET US GO BACK TO WORK!
dong
AH... YES

ding
dong
AH!
IT LOOKS JUST LIKE
IT HAS THE SAME HANDS AS MY DOVE CLOCK!
THAT CLOCK! IT'S ONE OF MASTER HEWLETT'S, RIGHT?
MULARA-SAN


IT'S WONDERFUL THAT YOU LOVE WATCHES SO MUCH,
BUT COULD YOU PLEASE STOP SPEAKING OF THEM IN THIS HOUSE?
EHM
YOU ARE JUST A SERVANT. YOUR PLACE HERE IS NO HIGHER THAN THAT OF ANYONE ELSE WORKING FOR OUR MASTER.
SO PLEASE, REFRAIN FROM EXPRESSING
ANY FURTHER OPINIONS ABOUT MASTER'S WORKS!

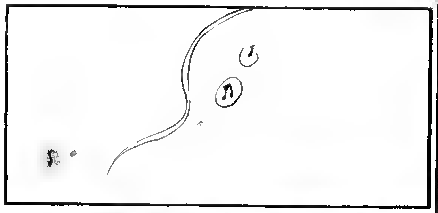
AH... I...
I SEE I'M VERY SORRY
I... FORGOT MY PLACE... I'LL BE CAREFUL FROM NOW ON
.....

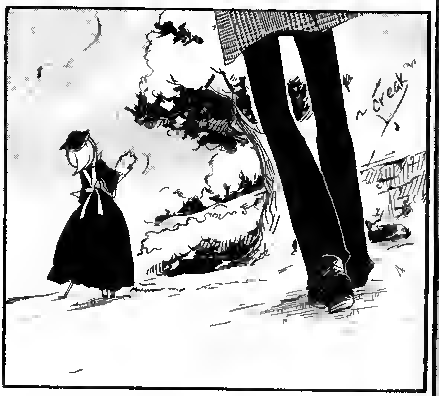


I'M GLAD YOU UNDERSTAND ME

I ABSOLUTELY CANNOT DO IT...
NO USE!
screech
screech
AGRH...
IF I DON'T COME UP WITH SOME DESIGN TODAY,
I WON'T HAVE TIME TO ACTUALLY PUT IT TOGETHER. BAD...
.....
AGRH! I DON'T WANT TO DO THAT!
AND THEN I'LL HAVE TO SEND JUST SOME EXPERIMENTAL WATCH...

Cleaning the yard again?
..?
No. What is she doing?
I'M TAKING A BREAK ANYWAY, SO I'LL JUST GO DOWN...
I CAN'T SEE FROM HERE.
I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE

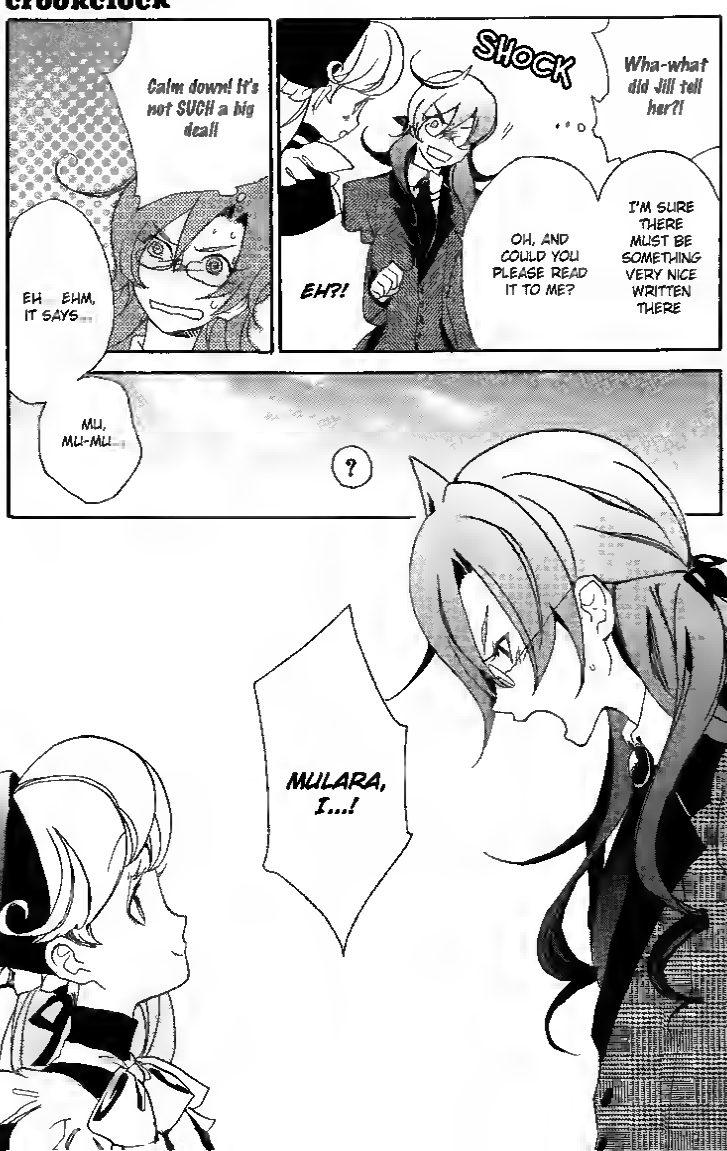



~Great~

……!

GOOD AFTERNOON, MASTER HEWLETT! TAKING A WALK?
WELL, SOMETHING LIKE THAT
BY THE WAY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
EHM... I DECIDED TO TRY TO RE-WRITE THIS...
THE MAILMAN GAVE IT TO ME, BUT I CAN'T READ IT, SO I ASKED MR JILL TO TELL ME WHAT IT WAS
IT'S A FAN LETTER FOR YOU, MASTER HEWLETT
?
I TRIED TO REWRITE IT HERE BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE VISIBLE FROM YOUR ROOM

THIS WAY YOU CAN READ IT, CAN'T YOU?
Miss Mulara, I love you!
!?


Calm down! It's not SUCH a big deal!
EH... EHM, IT SAYS...
MU, MU-MU...
SHOCK
Wha-what did Jill tell her?!
I'M SURE THERE MUST BE SOMETHING VERY NICE WRITTEN THERE
OH, AND COULD YOU PLEASE READ IT TO ME?
EH?!
?
MULARA, I...!

?
YES?
AH, THAT'S NOT IT!
IT'S "MISS MULARA"...
I...
I...
Say it! Say it!
I...?

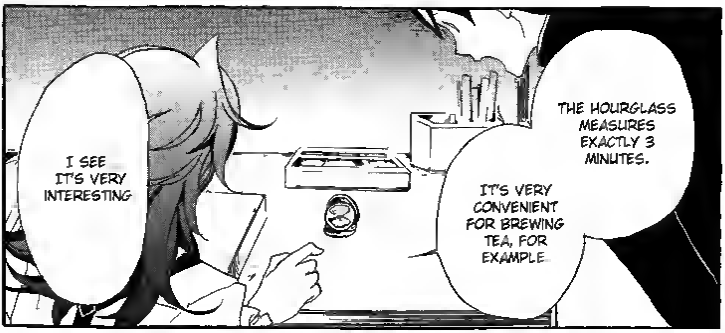
Say... Say "love"!
!!
.....!
TTAGGER
SFX KUSH
I... I CAN'T SAY IT!
!?
What does "I-I" mean?
rustle
Hm..?!
stampede
What happened to Master Hewlett?
HM..?
MY, MY..
WHAT A SUR-PRISE!

YOU WROTE IT EVEN THOUGH YOU CAN'T READ?
IT'S A LOVE-LETTER! IT SAYS SOME-ONE LOVES YOU.
YOU WROTE IT ON THE GROUND? HOW DARING!
EH?
WHAT DID I WRITE?
stop
But Mr. Jill told me it was fan mail..
Why?
UNCLE, PRETEND YOU NEVER SAW THAT!
WHAAAAT! NOOOOO! NO WAY?!
WAH
sweep
sweep
sweep
LO
...VE?

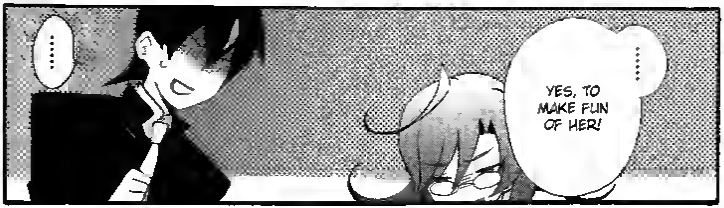
huff
huff
AH... I ESCAPED...
Does the meaning change according to the reader?
I really can't understand writing..
STARTLE
MASTER~~ WHY...
YOU... YOU SAW?
YOU AND YOUR PETTY TRICKS!
WHY DIDN'T YOU READ IT~~
THAT WAS ONE IN A MILLION CHANCE!

AH, FORGET IT! I'M GOING BACK TO WORK. DON'T INTERRUPT ME ANYMORE FOR TODAY!
.....
AH, DON'T SAY THAT!
I JUST HAPPENED TO BE BY THE WINDOW AND FELT SO DEEPLY TOUCHED!
SOB SOB
AH, HOW PAINFUL...
MASTER COULDN'T CONFESS HIS FEELINGS TO MISS LITTLE BIRD...
ALTHOUGH EVERYTHING WAS WRITTEN ON THE SAND AT HIS FEET...
AGRH, ENOUGH! JUST SHUT UP AND...
HM?
SAND...?

ALL RIGHT!
FINISHED!
THIS IS THE "STAND-OUT WATCH" I'LL SEND MOTHER!
click
THERE'S AN HOUR-GLASS AT THE BACK OF THE WATCH
ORNAMENTS AREN'T MY THING, SO I GAVE THAT UP. BUT LOOK INSIDE!
...? MASTER, IT LOOKS JUST LIKE ANY OTHER WATCH YOU EVER MADE
YES.

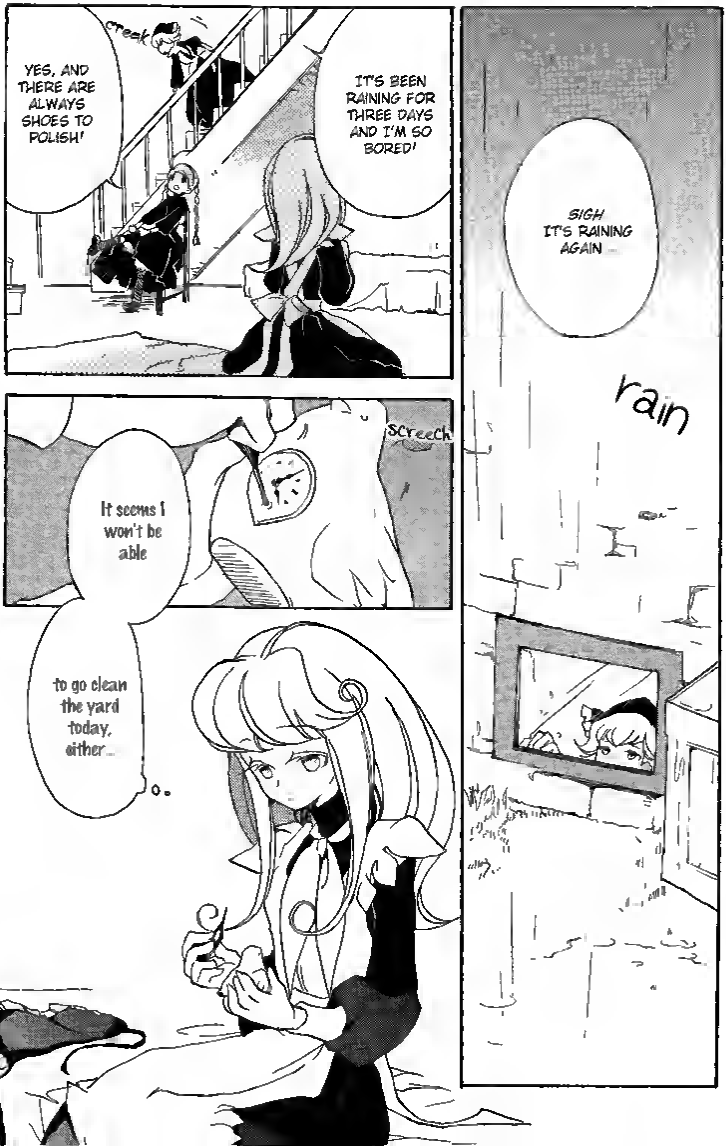

I SEE IT'S VERY INTERESTING
THE HOURGLASS MEASURES EXACTLY 3 MINUTES.
IT'S VERY CONVENIENT FOR BREWING TEA, FOR EXAMPLE

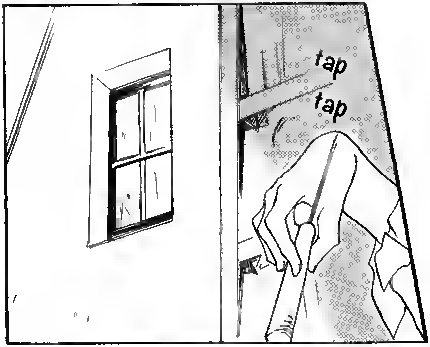
I'M SURE EVERYONE WILL TALK ABOUT YOUR MOTHER!
YES, SHE'LL BE CENTER OF ATTENTION!
WITH THIS, SHE WILL REALLY STAND OUT!

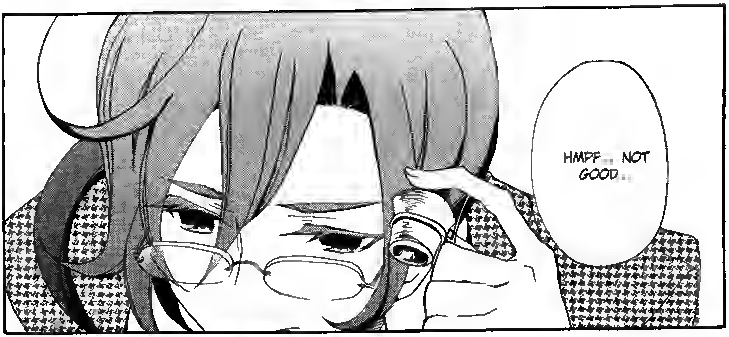

.....
.....
YES, TO MAKE FUN OF HER!

SHOCK
I CAN'T ACCEPT THIS!

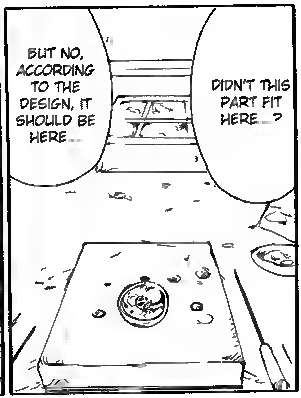
# Chapter 3


creak
YES, AND THERE ARE ALWAYS SHOES TO POLISH!
IT'S BEEN RAINING FOR THREE DAYS AND I'M SO BORED!
SIGH IT'S RAINING AGAIN...
rain
screech
It seems I won't be able
to go clean the yard today, either...
o.


tap
tap


HMPF... NOT GOOD...

FIT...
SO IT SHOULD FIT.


BUT NO, ACCORDING TO THE DESIGN, IT SHOULD BE HERE...
DIDN'T THIS PART FIT HERE...?

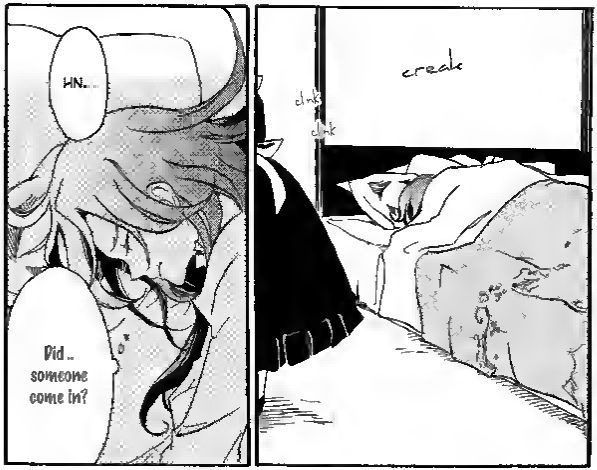
stand
LET'S HAVE A BREAK...
nod off
!
.....
AH...? MORNING ALREADY?
I MUST BE TIRED...
Ahh, my head feels so heavy..
Some coffee and..

SFX: STAGGER
creak
!?
THUD
THUD
SFX: BANG
MASTER?!
I'M VERY SORRY!
ARE YOU HURT?!
.....

YES...
DID YOU WORK THE WHOLE NIGHT AGAIN?
YOU ALWAYS SLEEP IN THAT ROOM...
NO... I'M FINE...
AND SINCE YOU'RE HERE, JILL, BRING ME COFFEE!
NO WAY! IF I REST TODAY, I'LL NEVER FINISH THIS!
MASTER, YOU SHOULD REST MORE...
!
YOU'RE TALKING TO THE WALL-CLOCK...
EHM... MASTER?

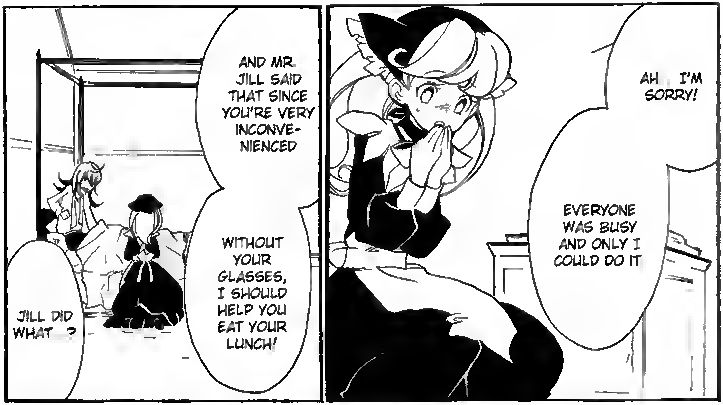
How do I make him take a break?
!
But master's so tired it's painful to watch...
.....
?
YES, MASTER, HERE YOU ARE.
AH, JILL, IS THAT YOU?
MY GLASS-ES...
WHAT?
YOUR GLABSSES BROKE WHEN YOU FELL!
EH...! T-THIS IS TERRIBLE, MASTER!
blah blah
WHAT?! HEY!
AND YOU REST FOR NOW!
I'LL SEND THEM TO THE CITY TO BE FIXED RIGHT AWAY!
THEY'RE ALL BROKEN DOWN TO THE FRAME! AHH, SO HORRIBLE!
? ?
I CAN'T~~
ARE THEY BADLY BROKEN? IF THEY'RE JUST CRACKED, IT'S FINE, GIVE THEM HERE...

I don't want to, but all I can do is rest...
I can't even see my own hand
But I can't see anything without them!
And I haven't finished assembling that watch, yet
I can't believe I broke my glasses
AHH...


HN...
Did.. someone come in?
clak
clak
creak

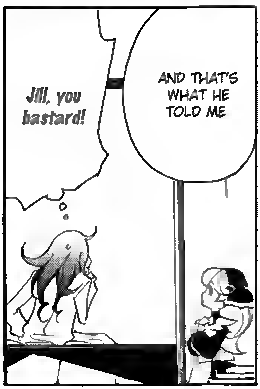
Jill.. No, it's not him
He went out to take my glasses for repair
So it must be some maid..
AH!
ARE YOU AWAKE, MASTER HEWLETT?

I BROUGHT YOU YOUR LUNCH~~
BANG
!?
MU... MU...!
WAH!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
W-WHY ARE YOU IN MY ROOM?!


AND MR. JILL SAID THAT SINCE YOU'RE VERY INCONVE-NIENCED
WITHOUT YOUR GLASSES, I SHOULD HELP YOU EAT YOUR LUNCH!
JILL DID WHAT ?
AH I'M SORRY!
EVERYONE WAS BUSY AND ONLY I COULD DO IT

UNTIL MASTER EATS UP EVERYTHING!
AND DON'T BACK OFF EVEN A STEP

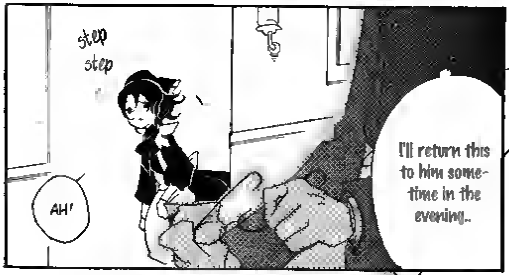
BUT MASTER HEWLETT, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YOU SHOULD TELL SOME-ONE IF YOU DON'T HAVE AN APPETITE.

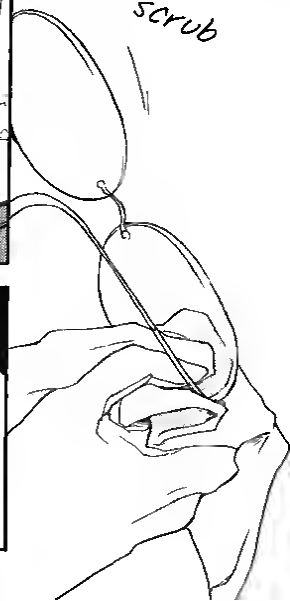

AND THAT'S WHAT HE TOLD ME
Jill, you bastard!

N-NO SUCH THING.
ACTUALLY, I'M JUST GETTING HUNGRY
IS THAT SO? I'M SO HAPPY!

EH...
When she acts like this,
how can I refuse?

I came up with a brilliant plan, if I may say so myself!
This'll cure him body and mind..

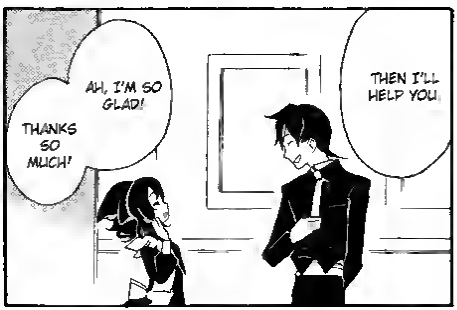

step step
AH!
I'll return this to him sometime in the evening..


scrub

THUD
THUD
THUD
THIS IS REALLY TOO HEAVY FOR ONE WOMAN TO CARRY!
ISN'T IT? BUT SHE CARRIES THESE AS IF THEY'RE FEATHERS!
SOMETIMES EVEN TWO AT ONCE!

HEY, JILL!
HAVE YOU SEEN MULARA?

I ASKED HER TO TAKE MASTER'S MEAL UP.
I NEED TO MOVE SOME PROVISIONS TO THE BASEMENT, BUT IT'S TOO HEAVY FOR ME ALONE.
REALLY? TOO BAD.


AH, I'M SO GLAD!
THANKS SO MUCH!
THEN I'LL HELP YOU.

THEN SHE MUST BE STRONGER THAN ME!
I THINK IT'S BECAUSE SHE HELPED HER FAMILY WITH THE FARM...
THUD
TWO AT ONCE?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. JILL!
YOU'RE WELCOME!
creak
AH, YOU MOVED EVERY-THING!
SHE'S BUSY WITH SOMETHING ELSE NOW WHY, DO YOU NEED HER?
BUT DIDN'T YOU FIND MULARA?
HER CLOCK HAS BEEN RINGING FOR A WHILE NOW AND WE CAN'T STOP IT!
NOT EXACTLY, IT'S ABOUT HER PERSONAL THINGS ..

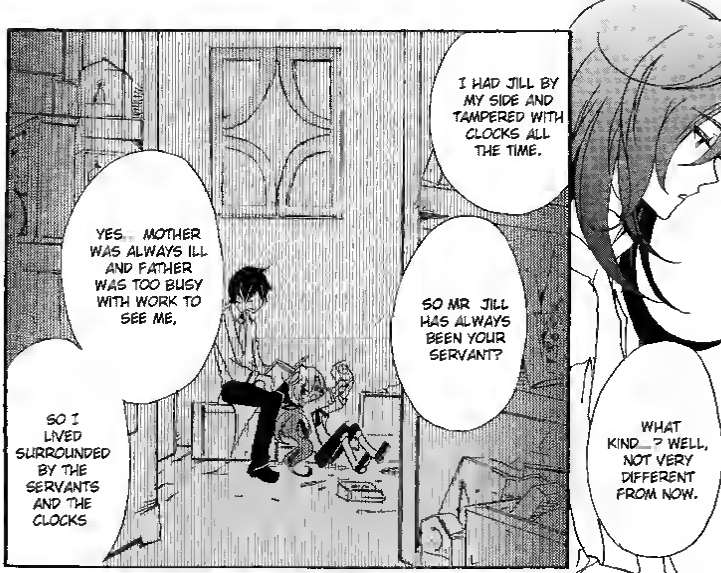
IT JUST GOES "PO-PO-PO-PO" AND WON'T STOP...
AND FURTHERMORE! WE NEED TO CLEAN THE GUEST ROOM TODAY!
YES, MA'AM!
clap
clap
WE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE BROKEN OR SOMETHING.
TAKE CARE OF SUCH THING *AFTER* WORKING HOURS, PLEASE!
THUD
THUD
THUD

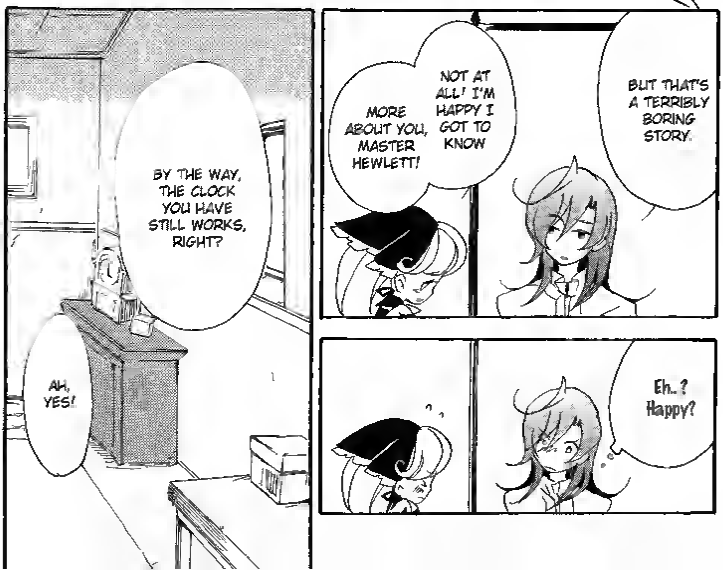
po
creak
po
po
po
po

CRASH
MASTER HEWLETT...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

I KNEW IT... PLEASE, LET ME HELP YOU WITH IT!
I SPILLED THE SOUP...
AH!
.....?
reach
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT..
NO! I'M NOT A KID! I CAN DO THAT MUCH BY MYSELF
...
This is so humiliating.. I can't stand it..
Come on
!
COME ON!
SAY "AHHH"...!

IS IT TASTY?
YES...
smile
THIS REMINDS ME SO MUCH OF MY LITTLE BROTHERS
THAT ARE STILL BACK IN THE COUNTRYSIDE!
THAT'S VERY TIME-CONSUMING...
YES, BUT CHILDREN ARE SO CUTE!
YOU HAVE YOUNGER BROTHERS?
YES, BUT THEY ARE ALL VERY LITTLE.
AND THEY ALL HATE VEGETABLES, SO THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE THEM EAT!
EHM.. MAY I ASK...
WHAT KIND OF CHILD WERE YOU, MASTER HEWLETT?


I HAD JILL BY MY SIDE AND TAMPERED WITH CLOCKS ALL THE TIME.
YES... MOTHER WAS ALWAYS ILL AND FATHER WAS TOO BUSY WITH WORK TO SEE ME.
SO MR. JILL HAS ALWAYS BEEN YOUR SERVANT?
SO I LIVED SURROUNDED BY THE SERVANTS AND THE CLOCKS
WHAT KIND...? WELL, NOT VERY DIFFERENT FROM NOW.


BY THE WAY, THE CLOCK YOU HAVE STILL WORKS, RIGHT?
AH, YES!
MORE ABOUT YOU, MASTER HEWLETT!
NOT AT ALL! I'M HAPPY I GOT TO KNOW
BUT THAT'S A TERRIBLY BORING STORY.
Eh..? Happy?

WELL..
COULD YOU SHOW IT TO ME, PLEASE?
AND... COULD YOU TELL ME WHAT EXACTLY YOU LIKE ABOUT IT?
EH! CAN I DO THAT?
!
SO PLEASE REFRAIN FROM EXPRESSING
ANY FURTHER OPINIONS ABOUT MASTER'S WORKS!
EHM... THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
I'M FLATTERED YOU WANT ME TO DO THAT, BUT I'M AFRAID..

stand
AH, YOU'VE FINISHED YOUR WHOLE LUNCH!
EH?
THEN IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME NOW...!
Did I eat everything already?!
WAIT A MINUTE!
EH... YES?
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
EHM...
THAT IS...
EH...
I'M GLAD YOU CAME TO HELP ME WITH THIS...
THA-THANK YOU...

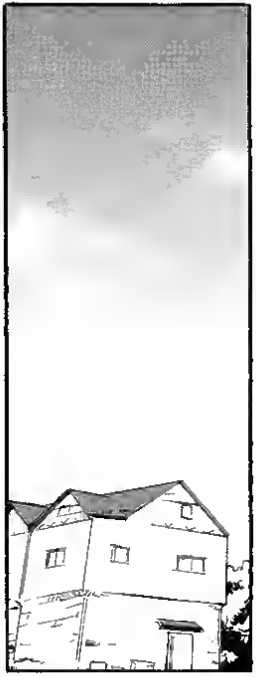
HOW IS IT?


HM... FINE


ARE THEY ANY DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE?


NO, THE SAME CRAFTSMAN MENDED THEM

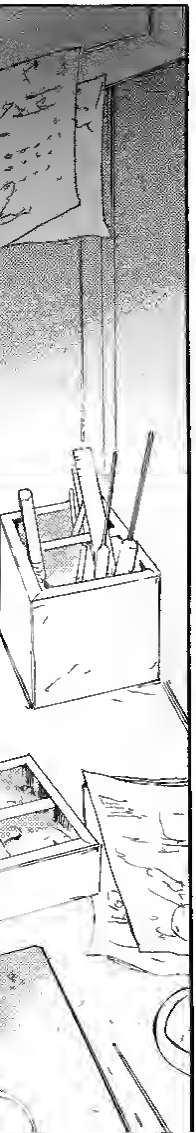

REALLY ...?

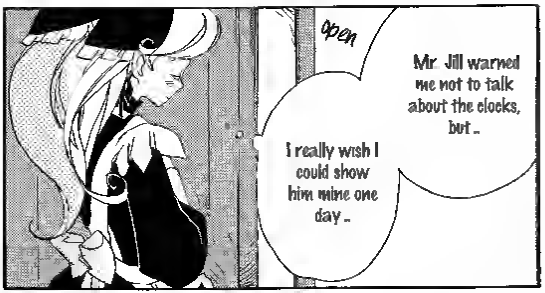


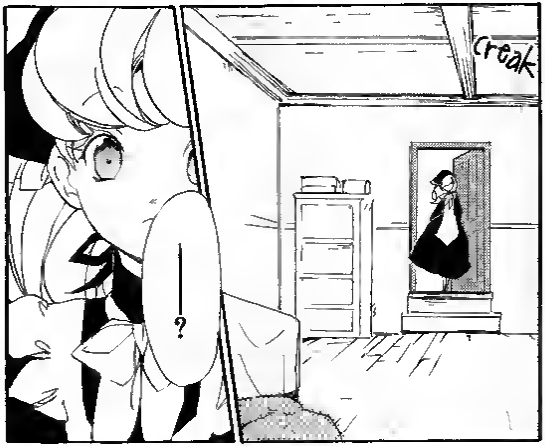
COME ON, SAY "AHHH"...! ♡
his image ->>

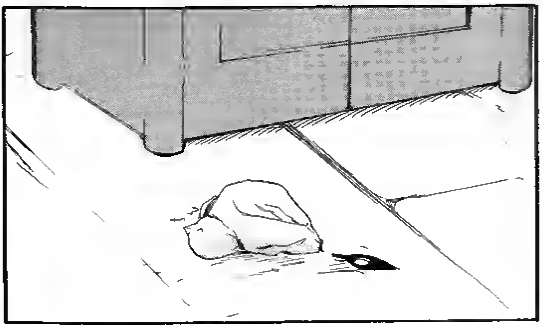
Everything feels so different when I can see...
What happened before is like a dream now.

MASTER, WHAT'S THAT FACE!
DID SOME-THING G-GOOD HAPPEN?!
sparkly
Ahh, but it's real after all..
That was the best soup of my life...
.....!
BANG
AND THEN... GAH!
DID YOU EX-CHANGE SWEET WHISPERS OF LOVE WITH MISS LITTLE BIRD?!
AH... IT CAN'T BE!
.....
I was rude
to Master Hewlett..




open
Mr. Jill warned me not to talk about the clocks, but..
I really wish I could show him mine one day..


creak
?

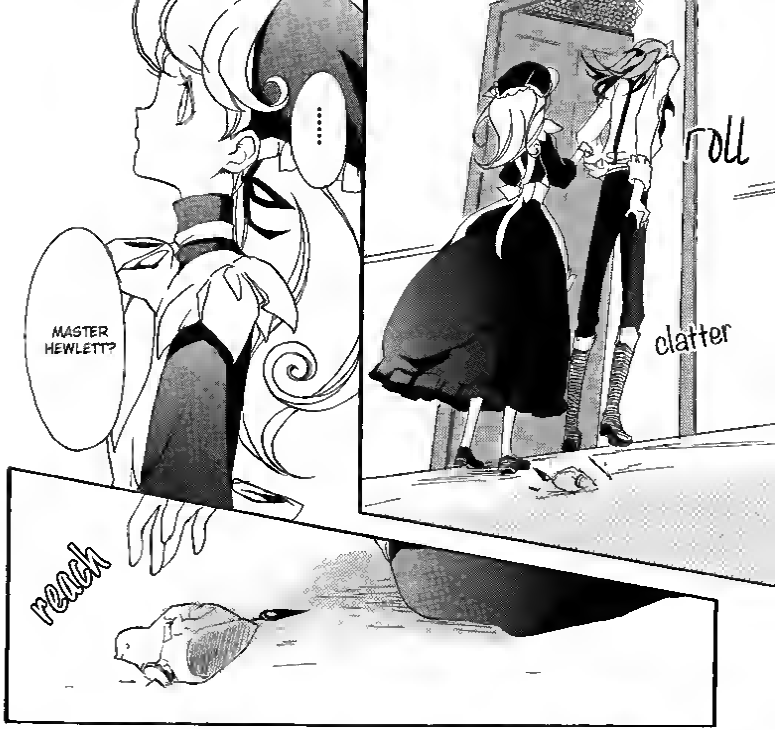


knock
knock
I'M... SORRY, I'M MULARA
JILL? COME IN!
NO, IT REALLY DOESN'T FIT HERE...
EHM... MASTER HEWLETT, ARE YOU BUSY?
!
creak
MASTER HEWLETT,
WHAT IS IT?
IT... I...

MY CLOCK... MY DOVE-CLOCK IS BROKEN AND WON'T WORK ANYMORE!
EH?!
COULD YOU PLEASE HAVE A LOOK AT IT?!

SLAP
.....!
I'M SORRY, I'M VERY BUSY NOW, COME LATER!
MASTER HEWLETT!
I... WON'T
PLEASE
I'LL WAIT AS LONG AS I MUST!
SO PLEASE, PROMISE ME YOU WILL FIX MY BABY!

ENOUGH!
CUT IT OUT!
SLAP
crash


.....
MASTER HEWLETT?
reach
roll
clatter

WHY...
.....!

SFX BANG
EH

.....
MASTER HEWLETT...?

YOUNG MASTER, THE MASTER IS WORKING NOW!
I KNOW! I WON'T INTERRUPT HIM!
THIS IS WONDERFUL!
THEN BY ALL MEANS, TAKE IT.
.....
WHAT...?

# Chapter 4

haa
haa
.....!
JUMP

DON'T YOU THINK...
THAT THE ATMOSPHERE BECAME HEAVY LATELY?

REALLY... MASTER IS ALWAYS SHUT IN HIS ROOM LATELY...
AH, I SEE!
IT'S SO... GLOOMY!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT! THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE MANSION!
MAYBE BECAUSE IT'S RAINING?
SPEAKING OF MULARA, SHE LOOKS AS IF HER MIND IS ALWAYS SOMEWHERE ELSE...
I WONDER IF SOMETHING HAPPENED?
AND MISS MULARA IS VERY ABSENT-MINDED AND MAKES MANY MISTAKES...
Ah! today's scones are even worse than usual!
Much worse.
YOU SURE LOVE GOSSIP, DON'T YOU?
I'M JUST WORRIED!
.....
EH!
DO YOU MEAN SOMETHING HAPPENED BETWEEN THOSE TWO?!

MISS MULARA?
!
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT
ALL RIGHT...
FIRST, LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING.

DID YOU KEEP YOUR PROMISE TO ME?
I'M SORRY
.....
I SPOKE TO MASTER HEWLETT ABOUT CLOCKS
AND THEN MASTER HEWLETT CHANGED...
I BROUGHT IT TO HIM BECAUSE I THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIX IT.
MY DOVE-CLOCK BROKE.

MR. JILL, MAY I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
WHAT DOES THAT CLOCK MEAN TO MASTER HEWLETT...?
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
IF I TOLD YOU, I'M SURE THAT YOU'LL...
NO!
!
THEN, LET'S SAY IT LIKE THIS...
ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A CHILD WHO MADE A CLOCK.
IT WAS THE BEST ONE HE EVER MADE IN HIS LIFE.

BUT WHILE THE CHILD WASN'T LOOKING,
IT WAS SOLD AS ANY OTHER AVERAGE MERCHANDISE.
HIS OWN FATHER HAD STOLEN IT, PASSED IT FOR HIS OWN AND SOLD IT TO MAKE HIMSELF MORE POPULAR
!
BUT THEN
THE CHILD HAD A DREAM - TO BECOME A CRAFTSMAN LIKE THE FATHER HE RESPECTED SO MUCH
TO THAT BOY THAT WAS

MORE HORRIBLE THAN YOU AND I CAN IMAGINE...

knock
knock

I BROUGHT YOU LUNCH.
MASTER, MAY I COME IN?
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT...
AND I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM MISS MULARA...
.....
I'LL LEAVE IT HERE, THEN
THEN AT LEAST... COULD YOU PLEASE LOOK OUT YOUR WINDOW?
.....?

OUT?
"I'M SO RRY"
"GOOD-BYE" ? WHAT'S THAT?
MISS MULARA ASKED ME ABOUT THAT CLOCK AND I TOLD HER.
.....
!
SHE SAID THAT HER PRESENCE IN THIS HOUSE MUST BE VERY PAINFUL TO YOU.

SO SHE PACKED HER THINGS AND LEFT A WHILE AGO
SFX: SLAM
DOES IT HURT, MASTER...?
JILL, YOU IDIOT! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?!
THAT MISS MULARA LEFT?

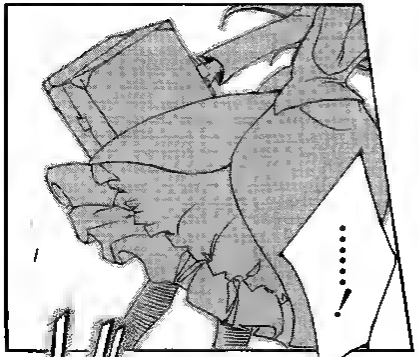
THUD
MASTER!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
.....
MASTER! WAIT A MINUTE!
turn
TAKE THE MAIN ROAD!
?
.....!

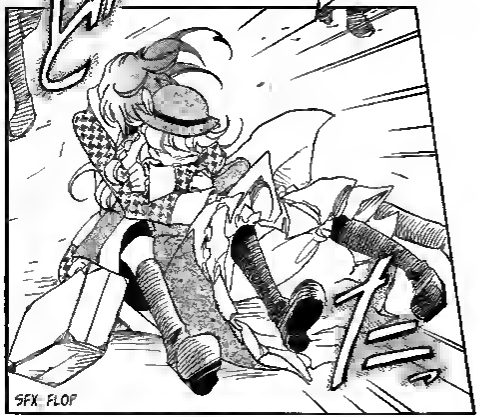
AND LOOK FOR THE COACH THAT LEAVES AT 3 O'CLOCK.
SHE WILL TAKE IT... TO GO BACK TO THE COUNTRYSIDE.

Coach...
This is their station, but..
So many coaches!
Which one is it?!
DARN I'VE NO TIME TO WASTE!
Where are you, Mulara?

I want to stay in that mansion..
by Master Hewlett's side...
I went away on my own, but... I don't know if I was right.
What do I do now?
LAST CALL FOR THE PASSENGERS FOR VINIF-ERRE!
OUCH! DON'T PUSH, YOU!
I'M VERY SORRY!
AH...!
YES! COMING!
SFX. THUD
?

POO
WAH!
POO
Oh, no... Why does it ring now?!
IS THERE ANYONE ELSE? WE'RE DEPARTING NOW!
NO, WAIT, PLEASE! I'M COMING, TOO...
MULARA!
EH?


.....!


SFX: FLOP

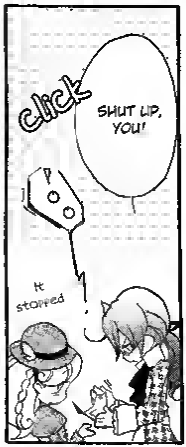
DON'T...
M-MASTER HEWLETT?!

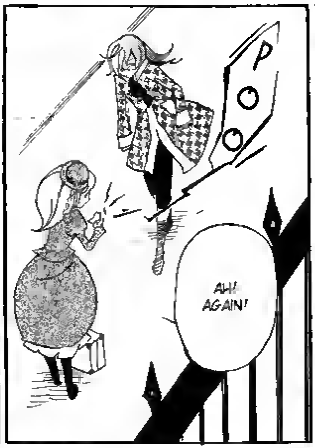
DON'T GO! I'LL NEVER LET YOU
JUST PACK UP AND LEAVE LIKE THAT!
.....!
.....
EHM MASTER HEWLETT...
clatter
slap

THE COACH ALREADY DEPARTED, SO...
!
WAH!
S-SORRY!
IT'S FINE...
.....
LET'S...
LET'S GO HOME!
EHM, MASTER HEWLETT...
WHAT?
I'M REALLY... VERY SORRY.
I LEFT YOUR HOUSEHOLD WITHOUT SAYING A WORD
AND... I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY ABOUT MY... THAT CLOCK

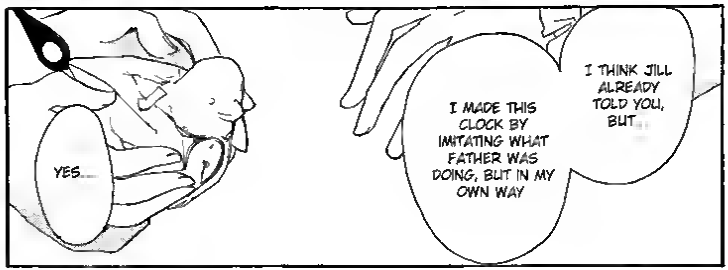
SO... I'M REALLY SORRY...
I DIDN'T EVEN CONSIDER YOUR FEELINGS WHEN I DID THAT.
I WAS WRONG.

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.


click
SHUT UP, YOU!
It stopped


AH! AGAIN!

MASTER HEW-LETT...
peek


YES...
I MADE THIS CLOCK BY IMITATING WHAT FATHER WAS DOING, BUT IN MY OWN WAY
I THINK JILL ALREADY TOLD YOU, BUT...

EH...?
I WANTED TO SMASH THE CLOCK SO I TOOK IT TO THE STORE-HOUSE
I COULDN'T FORGIVE WHAT FATHER DID
SO... IT WAS A SHOCK TO SEE IT IN YOUR HANDS.
I THOUGHT EVERYTHING HAD BURNED COMPLETELY... THAT I'D NEVER SEE IT AGAIN
NOT ONLY THE DOVE CLOCK BURNED, BUT MANY OTHERS, TOO.
BUT BY MISTAKE, I KNOCKED DOWN A LAMP AND THE STOREHOUSE CAUGHT FIRE.

I'M EVEN A LITTLE GRATEFUL FOR IT.
BUT YOU KNOW, NOW...
I MANAGED TO FIND YOU IN TIME
THANKS TO THIS CLOCK
WOULD YOU LET ME FIX YOUR CLOCK?
MULARA... LET ME ASK YOU THIS TIME...

YES!
MASTER HEWLETT!
drop
I said it!
Eeek...
.....
DIZZY

THEN LET ME TAKE YOU TO THE HOUSE!
N-NO! I'M FINE!
I HAVEN'T EATEN ANYTHING SINCE YESTERDAY...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YE NO
HOW COULD YOU...?! SHOULD I GO BUY YOU SOMETHING NOW?
I HATE EATING OUTSIDE...
AH!
THEN, MASTER HEWLETT, THERE IS SOMETHING...
RIGHT HERE IN YOUR POCKET..
I MADE IT FOR BREAKFAST THIS MORNING!
AH!
WHAT'S THAT?

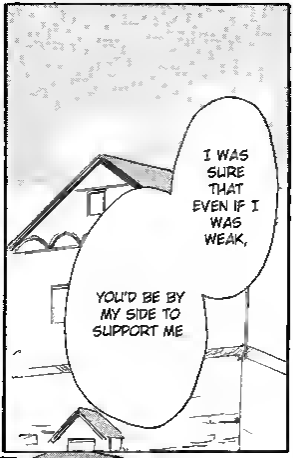
MASTER! WELCOME BACK!
AND YOU BROUGHT MISS MULARA, TOO!
JIIII~~~ IILL~~
AND YOU EVEN PUT A SCONE IN MY POCKET! CONFESS!
YOU HAD MY COAT AND EVEN PUT A MAP IN IT!
WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM, A KID?!
NO MATTER HOW DUMB I AM, I CAN AT LEAST FIND
THE WAY...
.....

I'M SORRY I MADE YOU WORRY!
SO, WHAT WAS THE RESULT?
You have crumbs on your tie.
YOU'LL NEVER SAY IT STRAIGHT, WILL YOU?
IT'S SO MUCH LIKE YOU!
MASTER...
I'M SORRY, TOO.
I SUPPOSE I WAS TOO OVERPROTECTIVE OF YOU.

I SERVED YOU EVER SINCE YOU WERE A CHILD
SO WATCHING YOU GET HURT REALLY MADE ME SUFFER, TOO
I WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT NOTHING LIKE THAT WOULD HAPPENED EVER AGAIN
BUT I THINK I MIGHT HAVE TAKEN THINGS TOO FAR
NO SUCH THING
NO.
.....

SO, JILL...
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING

I MADE YOU ACT THAT WAY... BECAUSE I WAS SO WEAK


I WAS SURE THAT EVEN IF I WAS WEAK,
YOU'D BE BY MY SIDE TO SUPPORT ME

!!
COULD IT BE MISS LITTLE BIRD'S INFLUENCE?
YOU'VE BECOME SO SERIOUS~

!
MASTER!

EVERY-ONE,
STOP EAVES-DROPPING AND COME OUT TO SAY "WELCOME BACK"!
SHOCK
AH, THANKS!
LOOKING FORWARD TO WORK WITH YOU AGAIN!
AND I'M GLAD MISS MULARA RETURNED, TOO
WELCOME HOME!
WOW... DOES HE HAVE EYES ON HIS BACK?!
MR JILL IS AMAZING!
That's why I told you to stay put...

MASTER---
WON'T YOU FINALLY GET TO WORK ..?
THE DEADLINE IS ALMOST DUE!
MASTER!
GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT
AND THERE WAS LETTERS FROM YOUR CLIENTS DEMANDING TO HURRY UP...
THE DEALER IS ALSO VERY EAGER!

DIDN'T I TELL YOU BEFORE?
I'M NOT MAKING WATCHES FOR DECORATION OR AS COLLECTABLE ITEMS.
I MAKE THEM ONLY FOR PEOPLE WHO REALLY
LOVE WATCHES AND WILL TREASURE THEM!

CROOK CLOCK / END

AERANDRIA

THE RAPID TOOLS BEHIND YOUR FAVORITE RELEASES!

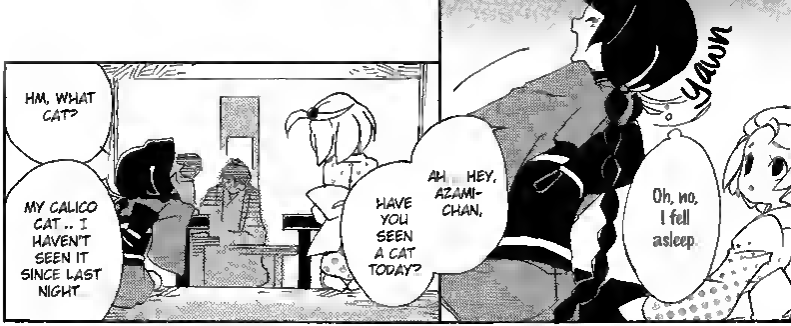
# Crook Clock

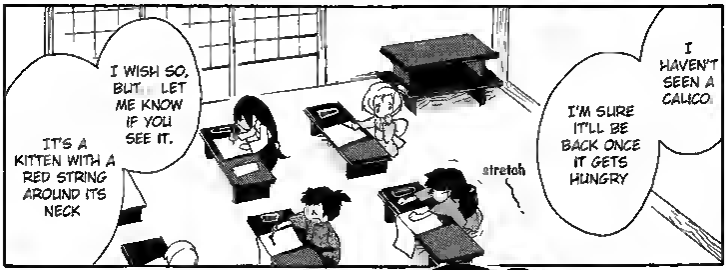
houbi & Jasmine :SCANNER
Mari :TRANSLATOR
Lacaille :PROOFREADER
Strange :EDITORS
craxx :QUALITY CHECK

# The Cat's Hairpin

*NOTE: THE EQUIVALENT OF AN S GRADE AT SCHOOL.
COME ON, MOMMY! PLEASE?
YOU SAID YOU'D GIVE IT TO ME IF I GOT A FLOWER-STAMP*!
I SAID THAT, BUT...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU REALLY GOT ONE. DO YOU REALLY LIKE THIS SO MUCH?
YES!
AND DO NOT SHOW IT OFF TO THE OTHER CHILDREN.
BECAUSE IT'S DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER PEBBLES AROUND HERE.
YES, YES! I'LL TREASURE IT!
ALL RIGHT!

doze off
I'll carry it with me every day from now on
It'll be my treasure...
BANG
drip drip
HEHEHEH, LOOK WHAT I'LL DO TO THE STUPID AZAMI-CHAN
AH...
HEY, DON'T!
YOU, THERE! NO TALK-ING!
IS SHE ASLEEP IN CLASS AGAIN?
HEY!
AZAMI-CHAN WAKE UP! THE TEACHER'LL BE MAD AT YOU!
.....
turn
HN...


yawn
Oh, no, I fell asleep.
AH... HEY, AZAMI-CHAN,
HAVE YOU SEEN A CAT TODAY?
HM, WHAT CAT?
MY CALICO CAT.. I HAVEN'T SEEN IT SINCE LAST NIGHT


I HAVEN'T SEEN A CALICO.
I'M SURE IT'LL BE BACK ONCE IT GETS HUNGRY
stretch
I WISH SO, BUT... LET ME KNOW IF YOU SEE IT.
IT'S A KITTEN WITH A RED STRING AROUND ITS NECK

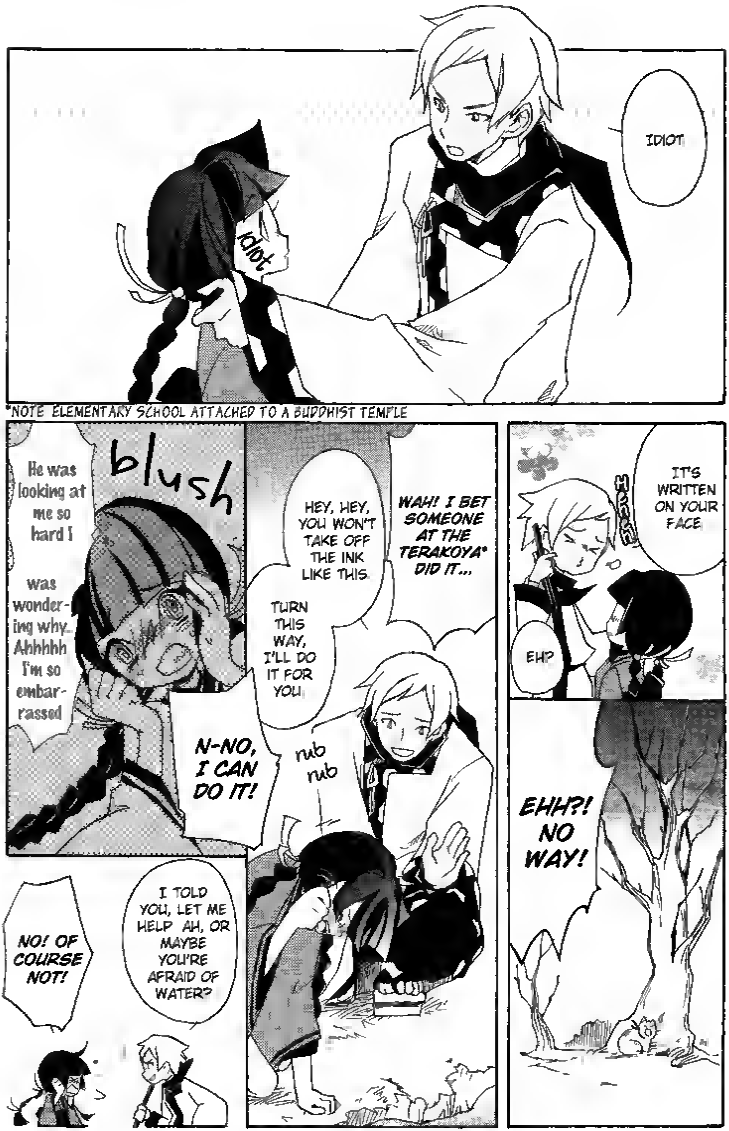
HEY, WHAT'S THAT? IT'S PRETTY!
AH, THIS? YES, ISN'T IT? IT'S CALLED TOMBO-DAMA*
I GOT IT FROM MOM
HEY, YOU!
I SAID NO TALKING IN CLASS! SIT OVER THERE!
CHUCK
.....

*NOTE JAPANESE GLASS BEAD MAKING ART AND THE BEADS MADE IN THIS WAY

WAH, THANKS TO THE DETENTION, NOW I'M LATE!
MOM WILL BE SO MAD...!
WHAT DO I DO? USE THE LOOPHOLE AT THE BACK AS A SHORTCUT?
NOBODY WILL KNOW IF I DON'T STAIN MY KIMONO ON THE WAY..
clack
stomp
!
MEW!
HISSS
WAH! SORRY!
AH! OUCH, OUCH, OUCH!
bite

I can... hear some-thing?
?
Stampede
GIVE ME A BREAK! TO-DAY'S THE WORST DAY EVER!
WHAT? ARE YOU WALK-ING YOUR CAT, YOUNG LADY?
N-NO! IT JUST BIT ME!

IT'S REALLY A PRETTY BAD BITE
YOU'D BETTER WASH THE BITE MARK
OUCH!
knee!
NOPE
I DON'T HAVE A CAT
IT HURTS... IS IT, BY ANY CHANCE, YOUR CAT?
rub rub
stare
?
T-THANKS...
YOU'RE WELCOME
.....
What's with this person, he's staring.
Eh, wait a minute, what is he doing?!
.....
touch


IDIOT
idiot
*NOTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ATTACHED TO A BUDDHIST TEMPLE
He was looking at me so hard I
was wondering why. Ahhhhh I'm so embarrassed
blush
N-NO, I CAN DO IT!
HEY, HEY, YOU WON'T TAKE OFF THE INK LIKE THIS
TURN THIS WAY, I'LL DO IT FOR YOU
WAH! I BET SOMEONE AT THE TERAKOYA* DID IT...
rub rub
I TOLD YOU, LET ME HELP AH, OR MAYBE YOU'RE AFRAID OF WATER?
NO! OF COURSE NOT!
IT'S WRITTEN ON YOUR FACE
WHAT
EH?
EHH?! NO WAY!

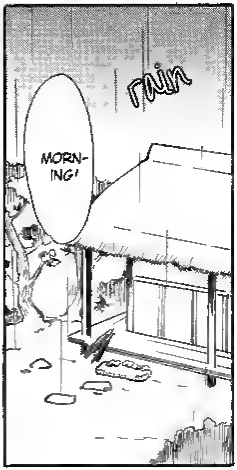
SO, WHAT? CURFEW?
YES, MOM IS VERY STRICT.
WELL, SEE YOU! GOOD-BYE!
jump
AH! OH, NO!
THE SUN IS SETTING.
C'mon
C'mon
ARGH, DON'T CALL ME IDIOT ANYMORE!
TAKE CARE
WASH YOUR FACE PROPERLY WHEN YOU GET HOME, IDIOT YOUNG LADY.

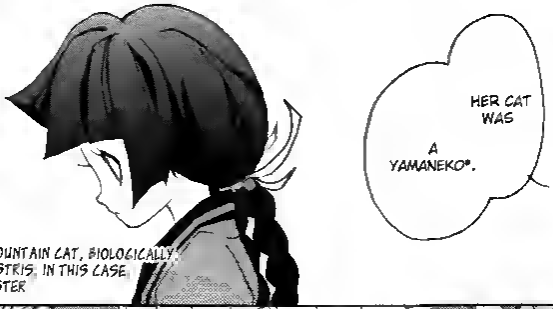
clack
clack
BANG
huff
I-
I MADE IT...
huff
AHHH, THE HUMAN-STINKY ONE IS BACK
SUIRAN'S KID?
HOW DARE SHE GO INTO THE TOWN OF THOSE CREA-TURES?
Ignore them, ignore...
A typical day for me is divided in two
One is my "human time," when Mr Sun is up in the sky
slide
and my "cat-time" coming the the darkness that the crows bring...

AZAMI
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE VERY LATE TONIGHT?
AH, MOM
I'M SORRY! THERE IS SO MUCH STUFF TO STUDY LATELY...
THAT SMELLS LIKE A LIE TO ME
YOU WENT TO THE RIVER-SIDE, RIGHT?! I TOLD YOU NOT TO GO BECAUSE IT'S DANGEROUS!
AND OBSERVE YOUR CURFEW!
Eekly
THERE'LL BE SO MUCH TROUBLE IF HUMANS FOUND YOU OUT!
BESIDES, THERE ARE HORRIBLE MONSTERS COMING OUT AT NIGHT—
YES, YES, I KNOW, I KNOW, I'LL BE CAREFUL FROM TOMORROW
REALLY... DO OBSERVE IT.
BECAUSE I'M ALREADY FED UP WITH WAITING
Ah.. There she goes again..
I SAID EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT! I'M NOT LIKE FATHER.

Scratch
Scratch
FATHER, EH...?
claw
HMPF! A GUY LIKE HIM IS NOT WORTHY TO BE CALLED THAT.
HE DISAP-PEARED THE MOMENT HE HEARD HE WOULD HAVE A CHILD!
THAT TRAITOR! I SHOULD HAVE NEVER TRUSTED A HUMAN MAN!
AH! MOM, CALM DOWN!
THE PILLAR HURTS!
GIAH!
Rather than this how about dinner?
Maybe you're right
My father is a human.
I'm told he disappeared suddenly before I was born
He lived in the human village together with my mom who had descended from the mountain
Mom has mentioned something about breaking a promise to meet again...
That's why mom hates waiting
And that's why I'm a "half-blood" with a strange body
sigh

MII-CHAN IS GONE...
WHAT'S WRONG, EVERYONE?
SENSEI WENT WITH THE ADULTS TO LOOK FOR HER, SO WE'RE FREE FOR TODAY
LOOKS LIKE SHE DIDN'T COME BACK HOME AFTER SHE WENT OUT TO LOOK FOR HER CAT LAST NIGHT
EH?




*NOTE LITERALLY, MOUNTAIN CAT, BIOLOGICALLY, WILDCAT FELIS SILVESTRIS. IN THIS CASE, A TYPE OF FOLK MONSTER

BY YAMANEKO YOU MEAN THE MONSTERS THAT LIVE IN THE MOUNTAIN TO THE BACK?
YES, YES! THEY PRETEND TO BE HUMAN AND SOMETIMES COME AND WALK THROUGH THE TOWN!
PEOPLE SOMETIMES DISAPPEAR, RIGHT?
THOSE MONSTERS EAT THEM!
STOP RIGHT THERE! WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO-

AH, YES
ALL THE ADULTS ARE SAYING IT.
WHAT, DON'T YOU KNOW?
YAMANEKO KIDNAP PEOPLE AND EAT THEM
YOU'RE HORRIBLE!
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
?
DASH
AZAMI-CHAN?!
I WONDER IF MII-CHAN'S CAT IS THE ONE THAT BIT ME YESTER-DAY?
LET'S GO TAKE A LOOK AT THAT BRIDGE...
Of course we'd never eat them!
Maybe not all yamaneko like humans, but..
That's all... lies.

BECAUSE OF THE RAIN...
AH, I SEE...
.....
?

AH? THE MAN FROM YESTERDAY...

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'LL CATCH A COLD

YOU KNOW, I... HAVE A RENDEZ-VOUS WITH SOMEONE HERE
BUT NOBODY CAME...
I WAS WONDERING IF MAYBE SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED, AND BEFORE I KNEW IT, IT STARTED RAINING...

HA HA HA YOU'RE STILL STUCK ON THAT THING FROM YESTERDAY?
AREN'T YOU THE IDIOT HERE?
YOU MEAN YOU BECAME SOAKING WET?

LOOK AT THIS WEATHER ARE YOU SURE YOU WEREN'T DITCHED?
DON'T SAY THAT... IT'S THE KIND OF PERSON WHO ALWAYS KEEPS THEIR PROMISES I'M SURE
HM
He sure believes in that person
I wonder if it's a woman he's waiting for...
.....
AH, YES... WHO ARE YOU?
MY NAME IS YOUICHIROU. YOU CAN CALL ME YOU *
THEN YOU-CHAN? I'M AZAMI.
*NOTE PRONOUNCED YO-OH
THAT'S A GOOD NAME.
YOU'RE NAMED AFTER MY FAVORITE FLOWER *
*NOTE THISTLE
THANKS...
B-BY THE WAY, YOU-CHAN, HAVE YOU SEEN THE CAT FROM YESTERDAY?
THE CAT?
THE KITTY WITH THE RED STRING. IT MIGHT BELONG TO A FRIEND...

WHAT A STRANGE MAYBE IT PLACE... SLIPPED OFF WHEN IT WAS CLIMBING THE TREE?
flutters
AH! REALLY!
!?
SFX SA-THUMP
BY RED STRING YOU MEAN THAT OVER THERE?
EH? WHERE?
OVER THERE ON THE BRANCH
??
Wah! Wah!
YOU-CHAN-
fluster
IT'S COLD!
AH, SORRY, AZAMI-CHAN, I FORGOT YOU HATE WATER.
Hm..?
MYAH! STOP! LET GO!
wah-mm
ghomp
MY BAD SORRY, SORRY

WHAT IS IT?
sniff
.....
HEY... YOU'RE FROM THIS... TOWN, RIGHT, YOU-CHAN?
YES. IT MAY BE TINY, BUT I HAVE A HOUSE WAITING FOR ME.
DO YOU LIVE ALONE?
NO, I HAVE A FAMILY,
BUT THEY'RE ALL GOOD PEOPLE, SO I BET YOU'D BECOME GREAT FRIENDS WITH THEM, AZAMI-CHAN.
YOU SHOULD COME TO VISIT NEXT TIME
YES...
Why is it that... You-chan's body is cold
and I couldn't hear one very important sound?

ARE THERE PEOPLE WITHOUT A HEARTBEAT?
LET ME SEE... I THINK NOT?
THE HEART-BEAT IS WHAT MAKES LIVING CREATURES LIVING.
IF IT STOPS, THIS MEANS LIFE TOO IS OVER.
EH!
NO, NOTHING, I WAS JUST THINKING
WHAT'S THAT SUDDEN QUES-TION?
Slide
WHAT'S THE NOISE ABOUT?
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE COMING UP HERE IN THE MOUNTAIN.
stand
AH SUIRAN, SORRY, BUT COULD YOU COME WITH US?
SOMETHING'S WEIRD DOWN THERE... AT THE HUMAN TOWN
KNOCK
KNOCK
LIFE IS OVER...

HU-MANS?
AZAMI, HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING WHEN YOU WERE IN TOWN?
AZAMI?
No heart-beat means...
You-chan is not a living person?
But he didn't look like a monster.
!
drop
AH... IT STARTED RAINING AGAIN.
Will You-chan be all right? I wish he didn't have to be soaking wet again.
Let's go take a peek. Just for a moment...

He's still waiting...
The song of the flute is so beautiful...
What's going on?
Ah? Huh? My legs are moving on their own...?
swing
DON'T TELL ME YOU ARE...
yank
yank
yank
Nooo! He can't see me! I'm a yamaneko right now!

STAY AWAY! YOU-CHA—
dash
WAH!
!?
I'M SO GLAD
I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN.
LET'S HURRY BACK HOME I HAVE SOMETHING I NEED TO GIVE YOU
yank
EH?
BY HOME YOU MEAN—
ISN'T THE RIVERBANK THAT WAY...?

?
Someone's there...
That's..
MI!-CHAN?!
WAH!
slap
.....?

creak
YOU-CHAN, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
!?
Just like that string.. that was hanging from the branch
SO THE CAT DISAP-PEARED BECAUSE OF THAT TREE....
BE-CAUSE OF YOU, YOU-CHAN?
SFX: THUD
!
WHERE... ARE YOU... GOING?!
NOW THAT WE FINALLY MET!

NO, NO!
YOU-CHAN, YOU'RE NOT THE TREE'S MONSTER!
YOU SAID YOU WERE HUMAN. YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR SOMEONE ALL THIS TIME, RIGHT?!
WHAT ARE YOU BLABBING..
SHUT UP AND COME!
SNAP
AH...

THUD
!?
grab
WHY DO YOU HAVE THAT?
?
I RECEIVED THIS TOMBO-DAMA
FROM MY MO—
I BOUGHT IT FOR
SUIRAN
EH, SUI-RAN...?
HOW DO YOU KNOW MY MOM'S NAME?
.....!

YOU ARE NOT SUIRAN.
I SEE.
YOU ARE AZAMI.
EH YES... DO YOU RECOGNIZE ME, YOU-CHAN?
AH... I REMEMBER A LITTLE. I DID SOMETHING HORRIBLE. I'M SORRY.
LOOKS LIKE I WAS POSSESSED BY A PUSSY WILLOW*.
PUSSY... WILLOW?

*NOTE: NO FUN INTENDED. THAT'S REALLY THE NAME OF THE TREE SPECIES

I'VE HEARD IT SAID THAT WHEN SOMETHING LIVING DIES UNDER IT,
THE WILLOW REMEMBERS THE TASTE OF IT'S BLOOD AND TURNS INTO A MONSTER
IT'S MY FAULT... I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING
...
GRAB
AZAMI?!
ARE YOU GOING TO FIGHT IT? STOP!
CRUSH
NO!

SAVE ME...?
YES!
AND THEN THERE'S HER, TOO... I CAN'T LEAVE MI-CHAN THERE!
I WILL... SAVE YOU, YOU-CHAN!
LET ME GO!
THAT'S THE THING THAT CAUSES YOU SO MUCH PAIN, RIGHT, YOU-CHAN?!
BUT I'M TELLING YOU, THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN FACE!
HURRY AND GET AWAY FROM-
I SAID I'LL BE FINE!
THAT'S JUST A TREE, ISN'T IT?!
SFX: SNATCH
DASH

AZAMI!
AH!
NO!
LET ME GO!
STAY AWAY FROM THAT!
WE CAN'T LEAVE IT LIKE THIS!
EVERY-ONE IS SUFFERING BECAUSE OF THAT TREE!

pull
IS THAT SO... ALL RIGHT.
.....
stab

YOU-CHAN?!
SFX: SWIRL

wilt
THE TREE IS... WILTING?
WHY...?
pull
I KNEW IT
WE'RE CONNECTED
YOU-CHAN, HOLD ON TIGHT!
!

There's no blood.
WHY?
AREN'T YOU A LIVING HUMAN, YOU-CHAN?
I WAS ALWAYS WAITING RIGHT HERE
AND WHY DID YOU KNOW MOM'S NAME?
.....

BECAUSE IT'S THE PLACE WHERE I FIRST MET WITH SUIRAN
EH?
THERE WAS A CHILD DROWNING IN THE RIVER
I TRIED TO SAVE IT, LIKE I DID THE FIRST TIME SUIRAN AND I MET
BUT THAT THING'S ROOTS REACHED OUT INTO THE NIGHT-TIME RIVER AND...
Ah...
NO MATTER HOW LONG I WAIT, SHE CAN'T COME
BECAUSE I'M NOT ALIVE ANY-MORE
Could
You-chan be..
AZAMI, GIVE ME THE TOMBO-DAMA

I'M SORRY...
I'M LIKE THIS
EH...?
YOU-CHAN...?
BUT FORTUNATELY,
I MET YOU, AZAMI
?
THAT'S... A HAIR-PIN?
HER HEALTH WASN'T GOOD
I WANTED TO CHEER HER UP AND MADE THIS, BUT I COULDN'T GIVE IT TO HER
IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN ON MY MIND
I STILL HAD LINGERING AFFECTIONS IN THE LIVING WORLD, AND THAT'S PROBABLY WHY I WAS POSSESSED

...MI!
AZAMI!

MOM...

hug
YOU DASHED OUT OF HOME AND DIDN'T COME BACK. I WAS WORRIED, YOU KNOW?
HEY!
ISN'T THAT A HUMAN OVER THERE?!

*NOTE: A CLASS OF JAPANESE FOLK MONSTERS
LOOKS LIKE A MONO-NOKE* WAS EATING AT HER.
YEAH. IS SHE THE ONE THE HUMANS ARE LOOKING FOR?
WE HAVE TO HURRY AND RETURN HER TO THE VILLAGE.
IF WE LEAVE HER HERE, THEY'LL MAKE IT OUR FAULT AGAIN.
...
MOM! MOMMY!
DON'T CRY LIKE THAT ANYMORE.
uft
THAT GIRL IS ALL RIGHT NOW.
SO LET'S GO BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN.
OH, MY, WHAT'S WRONG?
?

AH, AZAMI.
ARE YOU STILL GETTING READY? YOU'LL BE LATE.
YES... I'M LEAVING IN A MINUTE.
SAY, MOM, MAY I BIND UP YOUR HAIR TODAY?
YES, BUT... WHY?
I JUST... WANT TO PRACTICE.
.....
HM? ARE YOU DONE?
I'LL BE GOING TO SCHOOL NOW.
AH... Y-YEAH.
startle
slip away
HM... ISN'T THIS BINDING STYLE A LITTLE LOOSE-
—?

clack
clack
I wonder why...?
.....
I couldn't tell Mom
about You-chan
THE HAIRPIN
SUITED MOM VERY WELL
AREN'T YOU GLAD, FATHER?

I'M GOING NOW!

Nice to meet you. I'm Nesumi Chisato. This is my first published volume. I'm awfully nervous... It was my first time about many things so I was confused about many things. but I had a lot of fun while drawing it. I'll be very happy if you enjoyed it at least a little!
I'm very grateful to everyone who supported me— my family. all of my friends. the people who wrote me mails and letters. my supervisor and everyone at the Publisher's... everyone involved with this volume! I'll do my best from now on. too. so please take good care of me!

2005 nsm

● comments corner about the characters ●

Before drawing the manga

At first, I had an image of someone in their late twenties, but he became younger gradually (about 19 by now?) Aren't you glad, young master!

★Hewlett★

The girl who gets the cuteness vote. It was fun drawing her!

★Melara★

My supervisor told me to make him blond and with a gorgeous hairdo. But when I tried drawing him, he turned out to be a different type... I'm sorry.

★Jill★

# crookclock

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